




UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/611,659	06/30/2003	Mohamed Al-Kaabi	115699-00050	2011
21324	7590	09/22/2004	EXAMINER	
HAHN LOESER & PARKS, LLP TWIN OAKS ESTATE 1225 W. MARKET STREET AKRON, OH 44313			LE, MARK T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3617	

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/611,659	Applicant(s) AL-KAABI ET AL.	
	Examiner Mark T. Le	Art Unit 3617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2,9,12-29,36,37,39-41 and 43-49 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-8,10,11,30-35,38 and 42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election with traverse of the species shown in Figure 7b, claims 1, 3-8, 10, 11, 30-35, 38, 40-42, in the reply filed on July 29, 2004 is acknowledged.

However, claims 40-41 are withdrawn from further consideration along with claim 39 withdrawn by Applicant, because claims 40-41 are depending from claim 39. On the other hand, Applicant's traversal is on the ground that there is not a significant burden to consider all species. This is not found persuasive because the large number of species and the large number of claims present a significant burden.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishida (US 5,343,812).

Ishida, Figure 1 or 2, shows a multi-unit articulated railroad car as recited in the instant claims, including articulated connectors with female and male portions 12, 14 on trucks 13; wherein, the articulated connectors are in a symmetrical arrangement relative to the transverse centerline of the car as claimed.

4. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-8, 10-11, 30-32, 38 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Weber (US 3,399,631).

Weber, Figures 1 and 2, shows a multi-unit articulated railroad car as recited in the instant claims, including side bearing arms 72, 73, 76, 77, articulated connectors 11 with female and male portions 18, 17 on trucks 9, 10; and the articulated connectors 11, as shown in Figure 1, and the side bearing arms, as shown in Figure 2, are in symmetrical arrangements relative to the transverse centerline as claimed.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber (US 3,399,631).

Weber is applied above.

Regarding the instant claimed distances or range of distances between the side bearing arms, as recited in instant claims 33-35, it is noted that a greater distance between the side bearing arms would yield a greater support against side swaying; however, such greater distance would require longer side bearing arms units which may not be so desirable; on the other hand, a shorter distance between side bearing arms would yield the opposites of the above. Accordingly, as a matter of common sense, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to select a distance, such as the claimed distance, between the side bearing arms of Weber so as to achieve a desired balance between the swaying factor and the feasible side bearing arm length.

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber (US 3,399,631) in view of Pileggi (US 5,207,161).

Weber is applied above.


Regarding the car unit having a well for accommodating intermodal cargo, consider the car units of Pileggi. In view of Pileggi, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to configure the car units of Weber as well car units, similar to that taught by Pileggi, so as to allow accommodation of intermodal cargo.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark T. Le whose telephone number is 703-308-3663. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Samuel Morano can be reached on 703-308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3617

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mark T. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3617

mle
9/16/04